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Do FROWL over Cuba. Fingers of a high-altitude aerial snooping convinced U.S. strategists that Castro's military is mainly defensive. They find up to 100,000 troops, no build-up of offensive strength for invasion of Latin lands. Cuba's navy lacks long-range striking power, some experts reckon. Russia deliberately laments Castro, lest he rashly risk major war.

But Cuba lengthens its strides to become a major power. Soviet Union's aid to Cuba is a major factor in the world's balance of power. And some figures show Cuba could have repelled an invasion larger than that April's Bay of Pigs invasion. Castro steps up his propaganda throughout the hemisphere, helps Red guerrillas in many lands. He goes Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia.

U.S. policymakers debate whether to try to prevent Cuba's economic troubles by embargo. Foes of the idea get the upper hand. They prefer to leave Cuba alone. The eventual direct efforts to overthrow the regime.